

BRARY

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1947

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

B I G G L E S W A D E R U R A L D I S T R I C T

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

C.A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H.W. PRIDMORE, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.,
as Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

(a) D.W. POPE, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.

(b) R.D. PRICHARD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector:

(c) H. INGRAM.

General Assistant:

K.D. BALLARD.

Clerks:

(d)	MRS. D. FREEMAN	(Shorthand typist).
(e)	MISS D. SENIOR	(Clerk).
(f)	MRS. E. MILLER	(Shorthand typist).
(g)	MISS E. COX.	(Clerk).

(a)	Resigned 8th March, 1947.
(b)	Appointed 13th October, 1947.
(d)	Resigned 26th July, 1947.
(e)	Resigned 27th June, 1947.
(f)	Appointed 21st July, 1947.
(g)	Appointed 14th July, 1947.

(1)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances in your district for the year 1947.

In a comparison of the birth, still birth and death rates for the Rural District of Biggleswade and for England and Wales, it will be seen that the figures are practically similar. The rate for deaths of infants under one year of age for the district is only 22.9 as compared with a rate of 41 for England and Wales. A study of the statistical tables for the years 1929 to 1947 reveals that the death rate for infants in the district has exceeded that for the country as a whole, on two occasions only, while, for the remainder, the rate has been considerably lower especially in 1943, when it was only 19.5. This is a matter for congratulation.

It will be seen from the table of causes of death, that Cancer and Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System continue to be the greatest killing diseases being responsible for 160 of the 258 deaths which occurred in the district during the year.

There was an outbreak of paratyphoid fever during the months of August and September and the incidence is discussed in the Report under the section dealing with infectious disease.

I have to express my sincere thanks to all the officials of the Council and their staffs for their help and co-operation which has been given so freely and generously.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. A. HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	49,152
Registrar-General's estimate of Population.	20,780
Number of inhabited houses end of 1947	6,063
Rateable Value	£102,752.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£415.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>RAW BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	206	213	419
Illegitimate	11	6	17
	<u>217</u>	<u>219</u>	<u>436</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population ... 21.
 Birth Rate for England and Wales 20.5

<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	10	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population ... 0.67
 Still Birth Rate for England and Wales 0.5

<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	114	144	258

Death Rate per 1,000 civilian population ... 12.4
 Death Rate for England and Wales 12.0

Deaths from diseases and accidents
 of pregnancy and child birth:

From Sepsis	-
From other causes	-
	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>-</u>

(3)

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	3	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ... 22.9

Rate for England and Wales 41

DEATHS FROM:-

Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-
Influenza	2
Cancer (all ages)	29

STATISTICAL TABLE 1939 - 1947

<u>DEATH RATE</u>			<u>BIRTH RATE</u>		<u>INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE</u>	
Year	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales	Biggleswade R.D.	England & Wales
1939	9.9	12.1	12.2	15.0	42.6	50
1940	11.0	14.3	14.5	14.6	48.7	55
1941	13.6	12.9	14.5	14.2	37.0	59
1942	10.4	11.6	15.5	15.8	59.4	49
1943	11.4	12.1	15.7	16.5	19.5	49
1944	11.2	11.6	18.3	17.6	47.0	46
1945	11.6	11.4	16.8	16.1	40.0	46
1946	12.8	11.5	17.0	19.1	40.0	43
1947	12.4	12.0	21.0	20.5	22.9	41

(4)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics:

Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	114	144
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	1
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	-
9. Influenza	-	2
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)		
Uterus (F)	1	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	7
15. Cancer of Breast	-	2
16. Cancer of all other Sites	10	4
17. Diabetes	-	1
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	11	20
19. Heart Disease	39	55
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3
21. Bronchitis	10	5
22. Pneumonia	3	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	3
28. Nephritis	-	4
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-
31. Premature Birth	1	1
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	3	-
33. Suicide	3	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	2
35. Other Violent Causes	1	2
36. All Other Causes	13	16

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES:1. Laboratory Facilities:

The arrangements whereby medical practitioners could obtain bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and cerebro-spinal fluid at the Bedford County Hospital, were continued.

During the year, full advantage was taken of the facilities offered by the Medical Research Council through the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge during the period when there were cases of paratyphoid fever in the district and the surrounding area.

2. Ambulance Facilities:(a) Infectious Diseases -

Stationed at the Isolation Hospital, an ambulance was available for the removal of cases to hospital, and an ambulance at Mogerhanger Sanatorium was used for the transport of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

(b) Non-infectious Diseases and Accidents -

The County Council are the responsible authority with a depot at Oak Lane, Biggleswade, Telephone 2295, where three ambulances and two cars are available for the transport of patients to and from hospital. A 24 hourly service is provided.

3. Nursing:

(a) Throughout the district, nurses are available of Maternity, Medical and Surgical cases, but do not attend cases of infectious disease. The registration and supervision of midwives is exercised by the County Council.

(b) The Isolation Hospital at Biggleswade, which undertook the treatment of cases of infectious disease, had to close down during the year owing to acute shortage of nursing staff. Arrangements were made for cases to be admitted to other hospitals within and without the county.

4. Clinics and Treatment Centres under the County Council:(a) Child Welfare Centres -

Arlesey	Methodist Schoolroom	Monday p.m.	Fortnightly.
Biggleswade	Masonic Rooms	Tuesday p.m.	Weekly.
Potton	Parish Hall	Wednesday p.m.	Fortnightly.
Sandy	Church Rooms	Thursday p.m.	Fortnightly.
Shefford	Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday p.m.	Weekly.
Shillington	Congregational Schoolroom	Thursday a.m.	Fortnightly.
Stotfold	Unionist Club	Monday p.m.	Fortnightly.
Tempsford	Stuart Memorial Hall	Thursday p.m.	Every four weeks.

(b) Ante-Natal Clinics -

Biggleswade	Masonic Rooms
Shefford	Methodist Schoolroom
Shillington	Congregational Schoolroom
Stotfold	Unionist Club

Tuesday a.m. Fortnightly.
Wednesday a.m. Fortnightly.
Thursday a.m. Fortnightly.
Monday a.m. Fortnightly.

(c) Tuberculosis -

A clinic was held at St. Andrew's Rooms, each Wednesday until November, 1947. On November 27th, a Chest Clinic was opened at St. Peter's Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, where a complete specialist service, including X-Ray examination, is now available. The days and times of attendance are:-

Monday	10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon
Monday	2.0 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Tuesday	9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Friday	11.0 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Contacts both sexes.
Pneumothorax refills.
Women and children.
Men.
Pneumothorax refills.

(d) Venereal Diseases Clinic -

Bedford County Hospital (Amphill Road Entrance).

Men	Monday to Friday	4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Women	Monday and Tuesday	6 p.m.
	Wednesday	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
	Thursday	5 p.m.
	Friday	3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance

Wednesday 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Friday 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWater Supply.

Water is supplied to the area by the Biggleswade Water Board and has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken periodically during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

The following report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of a sample sent for examination on 19th February 1947 is typical.

Chemical Examination in parts per Million.

Colour	Nil
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH. Neutral	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	17
Electric Conductivity at 20 degs. C.	525
Total Solids dried at 180 degs. C.	350
Chlorine in Chlorides	19
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	235
Hardness. Total	285
Temporary	235
Permanent	50
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.00
Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.014
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000
Metals	Iron 0.03
Free Chlorine Reaction	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 degs. C.	0.10

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in

1 day at 37 degs. C.	0
2 days at 37 degs. C.	0
3 days at 20 degs. C.	3

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli	absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	absent from 100 ml.

The water was considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

The water is obtained from three wells sunk into the lower greensand which are situated at New Spring, Dunton and Meppershall. There are two reservoirs, the main one being at Topleys Hill, south of the Newspring well and the other at Moxhill on the Northill - Bedford Road. A tower has also been erected at Topleys Hill to give increased pressure to the more distant parts of the area, with the assistance of three "Booster" stations at Upper Caldecote, Everton and Seddington.

Prior to 1939, water was obtained from the Newspring well only but since then, the two wells at Dunton and Meppershall have been established and a very considerable amount of new mains has been laid. The increased demand for water since 1939 was due in part to the requirements of the services during the war years.

I am indebted to Mr. T.A. Staniforth the Water Engineer, for kindly supplying information as to the additions and improvements made since 1939 and these are given below.

New Sources of Supply.

1939 Opening of Dunton Pumping Station.

This comprises 4 No. 14" internal diameter boreholes, sunk to approximate depth of 250 feet into Lower Greensand stratum, with a total output from the Station of 50,000 g.p.h.

The pumping machinery comprises 4 Allen Oil engines driving 4 generators generating direct current to motivate combined borehole and force pumps also of Allen manufacture in each borehole.

In addition iron removal treatment is carried out by pumping the raw water through a battery of 8 No. Permutit pressure filters.

1942 One 15" internal diameter borehole was sunk to a depth of 212 feet into the Lower Greensand at Hoo Road, Meppershall. This yielded some 24,000 g.p.h. but owing to the sand gaining access at this velocity of influx, the effective capacity is limited to 10,000 g.p.h. A Sulzer borehole pump driven by 3 phase electric motor taking current from the mains supply is installed.

Booster Stations.

1939 Booster station at Upper Caldecote.

This comprised duplicate "Sirius-Bruston" auto-pneumatic Boosters with capacity each of 24,000 g.p.h. with differential head of 102 feet.

This station was installed to increase the rate of flow to Moxhill Reservoir for Kempston and Cardington supplies.

1940 Everton Booster Station.

The original oil engine driven booster sets were replaced by duplicate auto-pneumatic boosting equipment, each pump having a capacity of 600 g.p.h. In conjunction with the balance tank in Everton, this booster ensures an uninterrupted supply to the Village of Everton.

1944 **Booster Station at Seddington.**

This comprised "Sirius-Bruston" auto-pneumatic boosting equipment with standby electric motor. Capacity was 20,000 g.p.h. with a differential head of 60 feet. This set was installed to ensure adequate pressure and supply in the North high level zone subsequent upon the increased demands of Tempsford Aerodrome.

NEW MAINS:

- 1939 1200 yds. 9 in. Ivel Bridge to Tingye's Corner for amelioration of zoned supplies to Moxhill Reservoir and to Sandy and the North parts of the area.
- 96 yds. 3 in. Trinity Road Stotfold) Extensions
 96 yds. 3 in. Wrestlingworth } for
 298 yds. 3 in. Meppershall } Housing.
- 1940 194 yds. 3 in. Lymans Road, Arlesey.
 180 yds. 3 in. Queens Road and South Road, Sandy.
- 1941 3310 yds. 6 in.) Arlesey and Stotfold. To provide a
 2704 yds. 4 in.) supply to Fairfield Hospital.
- 1942 5132 yds. 8 in. Langford to Biggleswade. To improve supply to Biggleswade and to Moxhill Reservoir for Kempston and Cardington.
- 3000 yds. 4 in.) Sandy Everton Road. To provide
 240 yds. 3 in.) supply to Tempsford Aerodrome.
- 5035 yds. 7 in. From Toplers Hill Tower to London Road Biggleswade. To improve supply to high level zones in the North of the area, in particular - Tempsford Aerodrome.
- 1008 yds. 4 in. Chicksands. To provide an adequate supply to Air Ministry Camp at Chicksands.
- 1943 2999 yds. 6 in.) Newtown, Henlow to R.A.F. Camp, Henlow.
 97 yds. 9 in.) To improve supply to Camp.
- 3262 yds. 14 in. From New Borehole at Meppershall to Clifton.
- 1947 145 yds. 4 in. Shefford.
 105 yds. 4 in. Langford.
 290 yds. 4 in. Arlesey. Housing Sites.
 235 yds. 3 in. Stotfold
 130 yds. 4 in. Potton.
 48 yds. 3" Stanford.
- 1948 160 yds. 3 in. Langford.
 150 yds. 3 in. Stotfold.
 100 yds. 3 in. Shefford.
 260 yds. 3 in. Upper Caldecote.
 100 yds. 3 in. Dunton.
 160 yds. 3 in. Blunham.

A piped supply of water is available to all but 38 outlying premises which are not within a reasonable distance of the mains.

SEWERAGE AND EFFWAGE DISPOSAL:

1. Main drainage systems are in operation in three parishes, viz. Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold, and practically the whole of the premises in these drainage areas are connected to sewers.

Arlesey - These works were constructed in 1931 and as very considerable development has taken place in the area since that time, the extension of the works is necessary and arrangements are being made to that end. The treatment of the sewage is by means of filter beds and the sludge is removed from the tanks and dried. The effluent is discharged into the river.

Stotfold - The method of treatment here is similar to that at Arlesey.

Potton - The sewage is passed through screening chambers, detritus and settlement tanks and the effluent is treated by broad irrigation.

2. There are other smaller systems in operation at Southill, Broom and Everton.

Southill - This consists of sedimentation tanks and filters and is privately owned.

Broom - A sewer running along the main street flows into sedimentation tanks for the emptying of which the Rural Council is responsible.

Everton - The majority of the properties are connected to a sewer which runs into a sedimentation tank. This is a privately owned system.

The remainder of the district is unsewered and in view of the development of new housing areas, especially in the more populous districts, the need for an up-to-date method of sewage disposal is a necessity. A large Sewerage Scheme, taking in all the parishes in the district and also the two neighbouring authorities, was submitted to the Ministry of Health but was not agreed to, mainly on the grounds of cost. Further proposals are being submitted for the sewerage of those areas where the needs are greatest. The ideal would have been to have a comprehensive scheme for the whole Rural district but as this ideal cannot, as yet, be realised, immediate attention should be directed to the more populous parishes in which the sanitary conditions can only be made

satisfactory by modern methods of disposal of sewage, and which should have prior consideration. In such parishes as Clifton, Henlow, Langford and Shefford, the need is urgent while next in priority, are the parishes of Blunham, Northill, Tempsford and Wrestlingworth. The estimated population of these eight parishes is about 8,500 or approximately two fifths of the total population of the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1947

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	28	20	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Typhoid	3	3	-
Paratyphoid	30	30	1
Puerperal F exia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	10
Cerebro-spi. l Fever	-	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	156	-	-
Whooping Cough	30	-	-
Jaundice	4	-	-

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total all ages
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	2	3	10	9	2	1	1	1	1	28
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Typhoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
Paratyphoid	1	1	2	3	2	2	7	5	7	1	30
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	7
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Polioencephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	4
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Malaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	2	22	31	80	5	15	1	1	1	1	156
Whooping Cough	3	5	12	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	30
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4

(b) Individual Diseases

PARATYPHOID FEVER:

An outbreak of paratyphoid fever occurred in the district during the months of August and September, a total of 30 definite cases being notified and was concurrent with outbreaks in the surrounding districts. The character of the disease in the majority of cases was mild, the chief symptoms being malaise, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhoea, and many patients felt reasonably well after three or four days. There was, however, one death from the disease and this occurred in an elderly person who had not been in good health for some time.

From the table showing the distribution of cases throughout the district, it will be observed that the majority of the cases occurred in the northern part, Blunham having the greatest incidence with more than a quarter of the total number. The first three cases to be notified were in Blunham, two of these having been previously admitted to a hospital outside the district on account of abdominal symptoms suggesting appendicitis. From information obtained as to dates of onset of the disease, however, it would appear that the first case occurred at Old Warden but no association between this and the cases at Blunham could be established.

Investigation shewed that all the cases in Blunham and Mogerhanger and some of the cases in the surrounding districts had a common meat supply and it may have been possible for infection to have been conveyed in this way. On the other hand, there were many households in these parishes having the same supply in which no illness had occurred. In the most of the cases, there was no evidence of contact with any known case, and in spite of a very full investigation into the general food supply, no common factor could be found. These investigations included repeated examinations of persons employed at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Arlesey from which meat was delivered to the district.

An interesting feature of the outbreak was that in only two instances did two or more cases occur in one household.

It is considered most probable that, owing to the comparatively mild nature of the disease, there were cases in the community whose symptoms were so slight, that they did not seek medical advice and who may have been, unknown to themselves, sources of infection.

The help given by the Public Health Laboratory service at Cambridge in the examination of specimens of blood, stools and urine, and of water samples, is gratefully acknowledged. The total number of specimens sent for examination and reported on was 172.

The following table shows the distribution of cases in the parishes in the area.

Parish	Number of Cases
Arlesey	2
Burnham	8
Langford	2
Mopporshall	1
Mogerhanger	4
Northill	3
Old Warden	1
Potton	4
Stotfold	1
Wymondley	4
Total	30

TYPHOID FEVER:

The three cases notified occurred in Three Counties Mental Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER:

There were 28 cases notified, of which 20 were admitted to hospital. The number of cases notified in 1946 was 21.

DIPHTHERIA:

Two cases were notified, one of which had been immunised. The disease was mild.

POLIO MYELITIS:

This disease assumed epidemic form throughout the country and two cases were notified in this area. In one case, a considerable amount of paralysis resulted and treatment in an orthopaedic hospital was necessary.

MEASLES:

There were 156 cases notified. The corresponding figure last year was 54.

WHOOPING COUGH:

Thirty cases were notified. The corresponding figure last year was also 30.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Numbers of Children who had completed a full course
of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 - 9 1938- 1942	10-14 1933- 1937	Total under 15
Number Immunised	9	154	343	278	282	1303	1126	3495
Estimated mid-year population, 1947	1739					2873		

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation
to Immunisation.

Age at date of notifi- cation	Number of cases notified	No. of cases included in preceding column in which child had com- pleted full course of Immunisation	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	No. of cases included in pre- ceding column in which child had completed full course of Immunisation
Under 1	-	-	Under 1	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-
2	-	-	2	-	-
3	-	-	3	-	-
4	-	-	4	-	-
5 to 9	1	1	5 to 9	-	-
10 " 14	-	-	10 " 14	-	-
Totals	1	1	Totals	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
20	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	3	5	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
45	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	12	2	2	2	4	1	1

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations.

Medical Officer

Medical Officer,
1925.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORFOR THE YEAR 1947

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth Annual Report upon the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Unfortunately, during 1947, it again proved very difficult to carry out all the normal duties, but every effort was made to ensure that all essential matters were dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

The difficulties were increased when Mr. D.W. Pope, the additional Sanitary Inspector left in March to take up another appointment with the Sanford Rural District Council and it was not until October that Mr. R.D. Prichard was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS:

Dwellinghouses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts	797
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress ..	674
Visits to n buildings in course of erection ..	107
Inspections ' factories (including bakehouses) ..	121
Inspections ' Dairies and Cowsheds	156
Visits re infectious disease	43
Visits re Rat and Mice Infestations	69
Miscellaneous visits (including refuse collection and Salvage)	1,261

NOTICES SERVED:

69 Intimation Notices or letters in respect of 103 properties were sent and 7 Statutory Notices served.

HOUSING:

The continued restrictions on the use of building labour and materials, again prevented much repair work being done, but as will be seen from the records elsewhere in the report, a considerable amount was accomplished.

A great amount of time was taken up in issuing licences and permits, etc., in connection with the control of civil building.

Owing to the pressure of other duties and the shortage of staff, it has not been possible to proceed with the Rural Housing Surveyor as quickly as had been anticipated.

There was a slight decrease in the number of verminous premises found and the position will improve still further when it is possible to provide new housing accommodation for families living under insanitary and overcrowded conditions.

During the year under review, 48 permanent Council houses have been completed and 23 prefabricated bungalows erected.

NUISANCES:

Complaints of nuisances have been about the same in number and character as last year. All were investigated and dealt with satisfactorily.

The following works were carried out during the year:-

Sanitary improvements (including drainage work)	451
Nuisances abated	137

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

(a) Council Houses found to be infested	1
(b) Other houses	3

Disinfestation was carried out in each case, "Lawes Block" and "Thermatox" disinfestators and "Zaldocide" liquid being used.

The process was repeated after a lapse of 10 days and all bedding was disinfested.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES:

MEAT:

There is one Government Controlled Slaughter house at Arlesoy, at which animals are slaughtered for retail, not only in the Rural District, but also in Biggleswade and Sandy Urban Districts, and wholesale, for manufacturing purposes in other parts of the country.

The work of inspecting the carcasses obviously involves a very considerable amount of time. The Meat Inspector is engaged whole-time at the slaughter house - thus all meat is inspected before leaving the premises.

The mode of delivery of the meat is still not entirely satisfactory although fewer complaints have been received regarding the transport and handling. Reference to the officials concerned has resulted in some improvement being made.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected and the percentage found to be unfit for food:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1086	3217	541	2165	195
Number inspected	1086	3217	541	2165	195
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	3	-	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	124	2445	4	43	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	12.43	76.02	0.73	3.03	6.15
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	273	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	164	1418	1	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	15.93	52.56	0.18	-	2.56

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human food, was as follows:-

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	121	5	0	9
Mutton		1	1	21
Pork		3	3	0
Veal			1	12
	121	10	1	14

MILK:

There are 49 farms registered, 14 being licensed for the production of Accredited milk and 8 for the production of Tuberculin Tested milk.

14 samples of milk were submitted for examination, of which 13 were satisfactory.

During the year, 1 application for registration as cowkeeper and dairyman and 1 as retail purveyor of milk were received and approved. One licence to bottle Tuberculin tested milk was issued.

ICE CREAM:

9 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream whilst 19 are registered for the sale of ice cream only.

All premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

OTHER FOODS:

Regular visits have been paid to other food shops and as a result, the following food has been found unfit for human consumption:-

105 tins corned beef	405 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
260 tins various foods	261 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fish	32 lbs.
Shell fish	268 lbs.
Cheese	23 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Margarine	23 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	21 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Rolled Cuts	56 lbs.
Prunes	25 lbs.
Eggs	103

KNACKERS YARD:

There is only one Knacker's yard in the district, situate in the parish of Hogorhanger. There has been no cause for complaint during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

In May, a new refuse collection vehicle was delivered. The delivery of this vehicle made it possible to terminate two contracts for the removal of tins only and to replace an old horse-drawn vehicle which hitherto had been operating in Arloscy by direct labour.

The parishes in which this work is now carried out by direct labour are as follows:-

Arloscy
Astwick
Stotfold
Honlow
Langford
Clifton
Shefford and
Campton.

All household refuse in these parishes is removed once per fortnight and apart from the beginning of the year when weather conditions made it impossible to maintain regular collections, no complaints were received.

In Potton, refuse is removed weekly by contract.

In the remaining parishes, enclosures have been established for the depositing of tins, etc., and these are removed therefrom once a month by direct labour. During the year, some $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres of a disused gravel pit have been leased, for the purpose of refuse disposal by controlled tipping.

NIGHT SOIL:

A twice weekly removal of night soil during the hours of darkness is undertaken in the parishes of:-

Langford Honlow
 Shefford

Labour is provided by contract and the Council have provided a "Dennis" Cesspool emptying machine with night soil attachment. Thus the work is carried out speedily, efficiently and with the minimum amount of annoyance to the public.

During the very frosty weather early in the year, it was impossible to use the vehicle on account of the pump, etc., freezing and an emergency service, involving the use of a tractor and tumbler cart, was provided.

In the parish of Clifton, a similar service is provided, by contract.

SALVAGE:

Strenuous efforts have been made to maintain the salvage collections. Posters, displays, and loudspeakers mounted on the collection vehicles, have been used. This work is now carried out by the refuse collectors in the parishes with an organised collection of refuse. Elsewhere, it is collected fortnightly. A bonus of 33.1/3% is paid to the collectors.

RAT & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919:

Valuable work has been carried out by the Rodent Operator during the year. Details of his work are as follows:-

Premises treated	55
Estimated number of rats killed	2566
Cost of treatments	£40. 14. 0.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE:

The works and plant at Arlesey and Stotfold Sewage Disposal Works have been maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year.

At Potton, work on the complete overhaul of the two triple plunger pumps has been commenced.

The consumption of electricity at Arlesey and Stotfold Works has been as follows:-

Parish	Main Station	Average per day	Sub Station	Average per day
Arlesey	10,231 units	28.114 units	5,364 units	14.663 units
Stotfold	13,081 "	35.825 " "	5,064 "	13.93 "

The engines at Potton have worked 2,579 hours, an average of 7 hours 36½ minutes per day.

RAINFALL:

The following table shows the rainfall recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works:-

Month	ARLESEY		STOTFOLD		POTTON	
	Rainfall	Days	Rainfall	Days	Rainfall	Days
January	1.33	15	1.36	15	1.25	15
February	1.51	13	1.44	12	1.36	13
March	5.81	19	5.69	19	3.97	20
April	1.56	14	1.10	14	1.60	12
May	1.06	12	1.06	12	0.61	9
June	1.42	12	1.47	11	1.68	11
July	1.83	12	1.67	11	2.16	9
August	0.01	1	Nil	Nil	0.05	1
September	1.09	10	1.02	9	0.97	7
October	0.18	5	0.19	5	0.21	4
November	1.09	13	1.03	13	1.09	13
December	2.09	18	2.30	19	2.48	21
	18.98	143	18.33	140	17.43	135

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

1. Inspections -

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	57	87	14	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	71	83	7	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	"
Total	128	170	21	-

2. Cases in which defects were found -

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Work of abeyance	13	13	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	Nil			
Inadequate ventilation	Nil			
Ineffective drainage of floors.	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4		4
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	3	3		3
Total	21	21	-	7

OUTWORK

Section 110				
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec.110(1)c.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.
Making of Weaving Apparel	5	-	-	-

Section 111Notices served

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

DITCHES:

206 $\frac{1}{2}$ chains of ditches for which the Council are responsible, have been cleansed during the year, at a total cost of £221. 11. 9.

In addition, a length of ditch in the parish of Shefford, receiving the drainage from a number of houses, has been piped in at a total cost of £210. 0. 0.

NEW BUILDINGS:

During the year, 115 plans in respect of 152 buildings were submitted and approved.

7 other plans were submitted but not approved.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENSING:

The following table shows the number of Civil Building Licences issued:-

<u>Licences</u>	<u>Number issued</u>	<u>Value</u>
In respect of new private dwellings	12	£14,930.
In respect of Conversions and adaptations	15	£ 3,804.
In respect of Housing repairs	387	£27,461.
" " " work other than housing	132	£ 7,677.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	546	£53,872.
	<hr/>	<hr/>

703 Priority certificates in respect of controlled materials were issued.

LICENCES TO DEAL IN GAME:

Visits and inspections	3
Number of licences granted	2

PETROLEUM ACTS:

Number of licences granted	61
Amount of fees received	£36. 10. 0.

(26)

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health for their consideration and support, and also to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. PRIDMORE,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

(27)

TABLE SHEWING NUMBER OF HOUSES IN EACH PARISH
HAVING INDIVIDUAL SUPPLY AND STANDPIPE SUPPLY
OF WATER

	Population	Number of dwellinghouses		
		In Parish	Supplied direct from mains	Supplied by standpipes
Arlesey	3,095	830	797	33
Astwick	27	12	9	3
Blunham	679	187	128	59
Campton	362	106	99	4
Chicksands	20	11	8	3
Clifton	965	312	256	56
Cockayne Hatley	93	38	33	5
Dunton	422	129	76	47
Edworth	88	24	19	5
Everton	251	67	52	14
Eyeworth	89	28	15	12
Henlow	1,656	358	294	64
Langford	1,137	350	299	51
Meppershall	577	181	132	49
Mogerhanger	456	142	98	44
Northill	1,234	390	354	35
Potton	2,047	645	473	171
Shelford	1,953	537	446	91
Scuthill	912	313	287	21
Stondon Upper	49	18	14	4
Stotfold	5,010	950	897	53
Sutton	232	69	40	26
Tempsford	462	133	87	42
Warden	386	99	76	19
Wrestlingworth	393	134	102	30

